



Arubans “welcomed home” artist Johannes Boekhoudt during his one-man show on the Freewinds

Aruba has been a regular port of call for the Freewinds cruise ship for the past eighteen years, and during that time, the ship and staff have become quite involved with the community of Aruba and its sister islands of Bonaire and Curacao.

On Friday afternoon, while in port in Oranjestad, Port Captain of the Freewinds, Ludwig Alpers, welcomed on board art lovers and family members of Johannes Boekhoudt, originally of Bonaire, and an artist of world wide repute. Johannes calls Costa Rica his home now for the past thirty years, but he was back for a nostalgic time with family members on all three islands, who were able to join him on the ship for the exposition of his work. Mr. Alpers stated the ship was honored to showcase this fine artist, who has earned an international reputation and following.

Johannes is noted for his abstract/impressionistic work in a particular style he developed about seven years ago. It incorporates a palette knife technique of oils on canvas, with applied in crosses to eventually build his distinctive images. When he paints, “I express two voices and one concept,” claims Johannes “to create a balance of communication through art. As my artwork evolves, the increasing sense of mysticism and depth continues to be an important personal element of my works. With different forms and techniques, colors are created in a world of ideas that manifest on the canvas. The cross is part of me as expression of my Divisionist World.”

Many of the worlds created on the canvas deal with emotional and physical abuse of women, children and the environment, revealing a social conscience and purpose in his work. Two paintings from one of his more famous collections “Circus” were included in the showing on the Freewinds, as were works that have shown in New York and Texas Galleries. Johannes is very busy at this time preparing for an upcoming exhibition in October at the Anthropology Museum of San Salvador, and he revealed that it usually takes months for a painting to be ready for show.

Another very interesting collection is titled “Vestidos” (clothing,) which chronicles the moods and emotions of woman through her garments and their color, with the final painting an abstract depiction of a white wedding dress, an apocryphal moment in her life.

Johannes has worked hard for many years and is now enjoying great success and is in high demand. His vibrant and intriguing works can be viewed at www.johannesfineart.com, which includes a video of him creating a piece. Though living in Costa Rica many years, he reports that he “still feels strong ties to his homeland, and the duality of his Dutch Caribbean and Latin backgrounds.” He expressed extreme gratitude to the Freewinds for providing a beautiful venue to reunite with the Aruban members of his family, enabling them to enjoy his success and accomplishments as an artist. Information about future expositions can always found at his website.